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PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION MEMORANDUM



**CHINESE COMMUNIST
REINFORCEMENT IN THE
TONKIN GULF AREA
CHINA**

TCS-20119/69

MAY 1969

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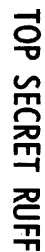
PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION MEMORANDUM

CHINESE COMMUNIST REINFORCEMENT IN THE TONKIN GULF AREA CHINA

MAY 1969

NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION CENTER

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TCS-20119/69

CHINESE COMMUNIST NAVAL REINFORCEMENT IN THE TONKIN GULF AREA

25X1D Photography of early [REDACTED] reveals a large probable naval installation under construction at Chihkan, north of Chanchiang, China. This new installation is the most recent manifestation of a continuing Chinese Communist naval reinforcement of the Tonkin Gulf area.

25X1D The reinforcement of this area has coincided with the escalation of hostilities in North Vietnam during the mid-1960s. Available photography taken prior to [REDACTED] shows no significant naval buildup. At that time only four major naval bases were located in the area: Chanchiang Naval Base, Haikou Naval Base, Chinglan Chiang Motor Torpedo Boat Base, and Yulin Naval Base.¹ The Lungmen Naval Base,¹ the logistics support complexes at Pailung and Hsinhsing, and the Yalung Naval Facility,¹ located east of Yulin on the south coast of Hainan Island, were begun in [REDACTED]. At the same time, the port facilities at Yulin were closed to civilian cargo vessels and the waterfront facilities at Sanya, a small city west of Yulin, were improved to handle merchant vessels. The old Yulin port facilities were then occupied by naval units. Construction of naval facilities at Peihai and Paimaching began in late [REDACTED]. These installations provide logistical support for coastal patrol units, but lack maintenance capabilities found at many of the larger installations. The construction of the Hsitsun Naval Facility, which has a graving dock capable of accommodating medium combatants, was begun in late [REDACTED]. The construction of a large graving dock² and a small naval facility,³ both at Yulin, was begun in the winter of [REDACTED].

25X1D During the balance of [REDACTED] base development appeared to cease, possibly due to the Cultural Revolution disruptions. There was, however, continuing construction on some unfinished installations - notably the graving dock at Yulin, the logistics support areas at Hsinhsing, and the Peihai Naval Facility. The new construction of a large, probable naval base at Chihkan, several miles north of the Chanchiang Naval Base, identified on photography of early [REDACTED] apparently reflects a return to the earlier buildup.

25X1D The new facility consists of a small mole, two quays under construction, six buildings under construction, and five construction support buildings. Two large ground scars may indicate the future construction site of two large buildings or one large building and a transverser. A probable workers' quarters or barracks area consists of 34 barracks and six support buildings.

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The overall base construction pattern in the Tonkin Gulf area appears to have a two-fold purpose. The primary purpose may be to provide more operating bases for patrol units in an area which became more important and required augmentation during the 1965-1969 period. The secondary purpose may be to provide more comprehensive facilities to support the new and larger naval vessels being added to the South Sea Fleet, in addition to providing logistics and maintenance capabilities for vessels stationed in the Tonkin Gulf area.

1. NPIC. R-239, 242, 244, 245, 248, 249/66, Chinese Communist Naval Facilities, 1966 (SECRET/No Foreign Dissem) [REDACTED]
2. NPIC. TCS-80818/67, Yulin Naval Dockyard Under Construction, Dec 67 (TOP SECRET RUFF)
3. NPIC. TCS-80819/67, Yulin Naval Facility Under Construction, Dec 67 (TOP SECRET RUFF)

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